

In the Claims:

Cancel Claims 1-7 and 9-19 without prejudice. Add Claims 20-34 as follows:

1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (New). A new device for locking a closure (2) with a housing of a laboratory centrifuge, the locking device comprising:

at least one swiveling lever (8) pivotally supported about an axis of rotation (7) in the housing (1) and including a projecting guide element (9);

at least one drive (19) for pivoting at least one swiveling lever (8) about the axis of rotation (7);

at least one catch hook (12) supported on the swiveling lever (8) at a distance from the axis of rotation (7) on a pivot axis (11) and having at a radial distance from the pivot axis (11), a cam segment (14) concentric thereto, into which the guide element (9) of the swiveling lever (8) engages; and

at least one spring means (17) for biasing the at least one catch hook (12) in a closing direction until the guide element (9) bears against a first final stop (14') of the cam segment (14),

wherein the closure (2) has at least one closing edge (4), which is gripped upon the closure being locked with the housing (1) so that in an opening position of the at least one catch hook (12) and with the at least one swiveling lever (8) being pivoted in the closing direction, the at least one spring means (17) holds the at least one catch hook (12) with the first final stop (14') on the guide element (9) for pivoting the at least one catch hook with the at least one swiveling lever (8) in the closing direction, wherein with the at least one catch hook (12) impinging on the closing edge (4) and the swiveling lever (8) still being pivoted in the closing direction until the guide element (9) moves, within the cam segment (14), to a second final stop (14'') thereof, the at least one swiveling lever (8) moves the pivot axis (11) with the at least one catch hook (12) in the closing direction of the closure (2), with the at least one catch hook (12) pulling the closure (2) into the closing position, and wherein the at least one swiveling lever (18) has on a marginal area extending around the axis of rotation and having a circle arc shape, a series of teeth (10) which interact with a series of teeth (20) of the at least one drive (19) for pivoting the at least one swiveling lever (8) about the axis of rotation (7).

21. (New). The locking device according to claim 20, wherein the at least one swiveling lever (8) has substantially a circle segment shape.

22. (New). The locking device according to claim 21, wherein the axis of rotation (7) is disposed in an inner angular range of the circle segment-shaped lever (8), and wherein the pivot axis (11) of the at least one hook (12) is disposed in vicinity of a lateral limitation of the circle segment-shaped swiveling lever (8).

23. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, wherein the guide element (19) is formed as a guide pin.

24. (New). The locking device according to Claim 23, wherein the guide pin (9) is defined by an extension of the axis of rotation (7) of the at least one swiveling lever (8).

25. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, wherein the at least one drive (19) comprises an electric motor.

26. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, wherein the at least one swiveling catch hook (12) has a widened base (13) in which the pivot axis (11) of the at least one hook is supported and in which, between the pivot axis and an adjoining neck with hook end (15), the cam segment (14) is arranged.

27. (New). The locking device according to Claim 26, wherein the at least one catch hook (12) has a fixing point (16) for a spring element (17) between the cam segment (14) and the hook end (15).

28. (New). The locking device according to Claim 27, wherein the spring element (17) is held at another end thereof, on the housing (1).

29. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, wherein the at least one catch hook (12) is adapted to be moved through a slot-shaped aperture (5) in an upper side of the housing (1) which enables the at least one catch hook (12) to be displaced perpendicular to the upper side of the housing (1) and parallel thereto.

30. (New). The locking device according to Claim 29, wherein the at least one catch hook (12), does not substantially project beyond the upper side of the housing (1).

31. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, wherein the at least one catch hook (12) impinges with a hooked end (15) thereof on the closing edge (4) in a pivoted position of the closure (2) which amounts to a few angular degrees.

32. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, wherein the pivot axis (11) of the at least one catch hook (12) in the closing position, has been moved beyond a straight line extending through a point of rest of a hooked end (15) on the closing edge (4) and through the guide element (9) to cause a self-locking action.

33. (New). The locking device according to Claim 20, comprising several catch hooks.

34. (New). A device for locking a closure (2) with a housing of a laboratory centrifuge, the locking device comprising

at least on swiveling lever (8) pivotally supported about an axis of rotation (7) in the housing (1) and including a projecting guide element (9);

at least on drive (19) for pivoting at least on swiveling liver (8) about the axis of rotation (7);

at least one catch hook (12) supported on the swiveling lever (8) at a distance from the axis of rotation (7) on a pivot axis (11) and having, at a radial distance from the pivot axis (11), a cam segment (14) concentric thereto, into which the guide element (9) of the swiveling (8) engages; and

at least one spring means (17) for biasing the at least one catch hook (12) in a closing direction until the guide element (9) bears against a first final stop (14') of the cam segment (14),

wherein the closure (2) has at least one closing edge (4), which is gripped upon the closure being locked with the housing (1) so that in an opening position of the at least one catch hook (12) and with the at least on swiveling lever (8) being pivoted in the closing direction, the at least one spring means (17) holds the at least one catch hook (12) with the first final stop (14') on the guide element (9) for

pivoting the at least one catch hook with the at least one swiveling lever (8) in the closing direction, wherein with the at least one catch hook (12) impinging on the closing edge (4) and the swiveling lever (8) still being pivoted in the closing direction until the guide element (9) moves, within the cam segment (14), to a second final stop (14") thereof, the at least one swiveling lever (8) moves the pivot axis (11) with the at least one catch hook (12) in the closing direction of the closure (2), with the at least one catch hook (12) pulling the closure (2) into the closing position, and wherein the at least one catch hook (12) sealingly pulls back the closure (2) against a housing seal.